



THE LION'S ROAR

Spring 2025



Important Dates

May 17 – Work Weekend.

June 22 – Opening Day of Camp

July 20 – Second Session begins

July 26 – Annual Corporation Meeting

August 8 – Closing Day of Camp

Friday, Aug 29 – Monday, Sept 1
– Friends and Family weekend

Message from the **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Dear Friends and Family,

This is Jimmy Holmes, the new Executive Director at Camp O-AT-KA.

I want to introduce myself and let you know how thrilled and honored I am to be in this role. I officially started on March 1, 2025, and I have been busy getting to know

many of you and prepare for another awesome summer this year.

Camp is a deeply important place for me. For those of you who don't know, I attended O-AT-KA for the first time in 1994 as a junior in Cabin Oxford. I attended the 2-week starter session. I desperately wanted to stay longer, but my parents (my father is also a Camp alum) wouldn't let me. Luckily, I returned every summer through 2006. I had the privilege to be elected King in 2005, and this remains one of the biggest honors of my life. I even got married at Camp in 2013! I've also been a member of the O-AT-KA Corporation for about nine years. This is a long way of saying that I am deeply invested in Camp.



My professional career has been almost exclusively in Youth Development. Over the span of the last 15 years, I worked at the Merrimack Valley YMCA in Lawrence, MA and then the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central and Northern NH in Concord, NH. My experience at Camp as both a camper and staff instilled in me the importance of positive role models in kids' lives, so I dedicated my career to it.

The 2025 camp season is just around the corner, and I am so excited to get to know you all. Camp is in great shape and our talented and passionate leadership staff is busy planning for the upcoming months.

I would like to thank the entire O-AT-KA Family for your continued support and generosity. Your dedication will help continue providing meaningful summer experiences for many boys.

Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions, thoughts or concerns. The best way to reach me right now is by e-mail: jholmes@campoatka.org. I look forward to seeing you all soon back on the shores of Sebago Lake!

Best Regards,
Jimmy



“Camp is a deeply important place for me, I attended O-AT-KA for the first time in 1994 as a junior in Cabin Oxford”



Alumni in the spotlight!

We are incredibly proud of our current counselor and camp alum Whit Armstrong who recently completed his Eagle Scout Project. By request from the Town of Greenwich Parks and Recreation, he designed and built from scratch a kiosk for the trail head at Helen Kinney Kitchel Natural Park. It took over 150 hours of volunteer work from scouting families to bring Whit's vision to life.

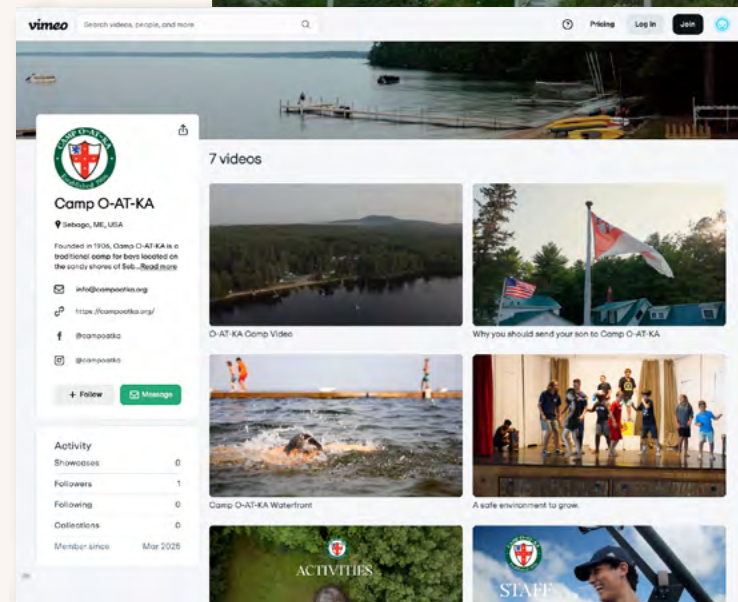
Congratulations to Whit for the major accomplishment and for putting his great skills learned at O-AT-KA to very good use! A big thank you to Whit's mother Lilly for providing this [great video](#) of the project. Enjoy!

Do you have camper or alumni news? We'd love to hear it! Please share your updates with us at info@campoatka.org.

Check out our new videos

Hopefully you haven't missed seeing the updated [camp website](#) that went live this past fall. If you did miss it check it out today. It significantly improve the camp's ability to get our message out there and really showcases all that O-AT-KA has to offer.

Along with the website we've recently completed several new videos to showcase O-AT-KA and integrated them into the website. However, if you want to catch them all in one place we have a [Vimeo page](#) that showcases all of them in one spot.



IN LOVING MEMORY

We'd like to take a moment to remember our camp loved ones who have recently passed. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to camp.

Robert "Bob" Courtney

Corporation member and Service Master Emeritus Robert "Bob" Courtney passed away on Monday, February 3.

Bob was O-AT-KA and O-AT-KA was Bob. Bob's presence and positive influence in serving camp was felt by campers for decades and indeed, multiple generations of campers. It is impossible to sum up Bob's love of camp in words, but instead, looking back at the decades of dedication he showed camp gives us a clearer look at what O-AT-KA meant to him.

The Robert 'Bob' Courtney Scholarship Fund was recently established to honor leadership in service at Camp O-AT-KA. The fund will support an annual award to a college or Vocational Technology bound staff member who best exhibits and promotes the traditions, values and mission of Camp O-AT-KA. To make a gift, [click here](#). Please be sure to provide a note in your check memo of the gift's designation, and thank you for your support! We are so happy to be able to honor Bob with this award.

Bob's [Obituary](#)

David "Cooky" Clark

Long-time volunteer and supporter of camp, David "Cooky" Clark passed away on July 18, 2024.

Cooky came to camp in the 1960's and was a staff member from 1970-77. David picked up his nick name due to his interest and job in the Commons. For many years Cooky has arrived at the beginning and close of camp to help open and close the property. He worked independently and quietly to give back to camp.

Cooky's [Obituary](#)



Bob Courtney

Former Kings gathered at Bob's service



Cooky (far left) at his O-AT-KA Heroes induction along with Marsha Trail and John Hall

WORK WEEKEND

The ice is slowly going away on Sebago, so that means that Work Weekend is right around the corner! We have lots of work that needs to get done, so we hope you can join us the weekend of May 17th to help us get Camp ready for the season. In addition to our normal necessary clean-up, we have an early wedding that we need to get camp looking good for, so we need all the help we can get.

Work Weekend 2025 will also be one of the last official undertakings of our longtime Facilities Manager, Kenny Berndt, who is retiring at the end of May. So, not only should you come to help clean up Camp but you should also come to give Kenny a proper send off.

As the date approaches, I'll provide more details about schedules, housing, etc. In the meantime, if you're interested in attending, please send me an email at jholmes@campoatka.org to let me know. Please be sure to let me know how many people will be coming with you.

See you all in May!

Register

There is still time to register for camp this summer!

INFO: For more information on session dates and rates: [Click Here](#)

REGISTER: To register: [Click Here](#)

QUESTIONS: Call us at 207-787-3401 or email info@campoatka.org.



Stay Tuned...

...for more information on upcoming events and summer season details. Families! We will be sending the edited Family Guidebook in April.

Please continue to check your e-mail regularly, and thank you for your patience and attention to all the important details!

Give to Camp O-AT-KA

As we enter a new phase for Camp O-AT-KA, the hard work and dedication will continue. Camp will always need the support of our family and friends. New family referrals, time, attention, and financial support will be crucial for the continued health and success of our beloved camp.

Did you know? Many employers will match their employees' charitable giving! Be sure to ask your employer about this and potentially double your gift to O-AT-KA!

[Please consider a gift today!](#)

Give Today



Highlights from **SUMMER 2024**





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